(a) the number of artists appointed in Northern Railway through cultural quota as on March 1, 1992;

(b) the criteria fixed for appointment of such artists alongwith the average number of artists being appointed in one calendar year; and

(c) the total number of cultural events held in a calendar year to utilize the talents of these artists and achievements gained by the Railways therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) 13 artists have been appointed since 1986.

(b) Achievements and performance in the specified cultural field is the primary criterion for appointment of artists against cultural quota.

Against an upper limit of 4, on an average two artists have been appointed every year.

(c) Every year one Inter-Divisional Cultural Competition and one Inter Railway Competition is conducted.

Artists also given their performances during the celebration of Railway Week, Republic Day and Independence Day functions, etc.

[*English*]

Appointment of Sportsmen

6414. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of sportsmen appointed in Northern Railway through sports quota during the last three years;

(b) the criteria fixed for appointment of such sportsmen and the average number of sportsmen being appointed in one calendar year;

(c) whether official work is being taken from them;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). 64 sports-persons were recruited in the Group-'C' posts during the last three years. The number appointed in Group 'D' will be separately supplied.

Sports-persons are recruited on the basis of their achievements in sports.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir, They are performing official duties attached to the posts.

(e) Does not arise.

Rates charged by S.A.I.for organising sports

6415. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the rates charged by the Sports Authority of India for organising sports events in the stadia under it;

(b) whether there is a demand from the national Sports Organisations/Federations for the reduction of these rates; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by S.A.I. in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH